

THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



May 2025

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May Events:

Saturday, 5/3 is Port Clean-up Day, 9am to 12pm. Help us refresh our building inside and out.

Sunday, 5/11



Sunday, 5/18 is the Great Day of Music.
See page 3 for details.



Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."



"A Symphony of Spring"

*In May's embrace, the earth awakens.
The birds take flight, their songs unshaken.
Through morning mists their voices soar,
A hymn of hope - God's love encore.*

*Each budding bloom, a gentle prayer,
A whisper soft in fragrant air.
The petals blush, the meadows green,
His face reflected in the scene.*

*Faith weaves its thread through springtime's art,
Renewing spirits, mending hearts.
As robins sing and sparrows dance,
We trust in His divine expanse.*

*So let us rise like dawn's first ray,
Embrace His light, give thanks, and pray.
In every bird's song and in every bloom,
we find His promise and life resumes.*



The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message

Hey Portland Avenue Friends,

How did you spend the Lenten season? Did you find that the time of introspection and repentance was fruitful for you? What did you do with Holy Week? Did you find yourself wanting to celebrate Jesus' ride on a colt and to place your coat in front of him? What happened for you on Palm Sunday? Did you partake of any of the offerings over the course of the rest of Holy Week? Did you hope to have your feet washed? Did you wonder if our Maundy Thursday looked at all like the Last Supper? How did you note or mark the hours of Jesus' arrest and trials? Good Friday commemorates that day, concluding with Jesus' death. FINALLY, on Easter, we celebrated Jesus' resurrection with breakfast, music, worship, and community. Did you hear Jesus speak your name this Easter?

Now what??

Where do we go from here? What are you anticipating in this next season?

Liturgically, we continue in the Easter Season until Pentecost, on June 8 this year. "The PORT" looks toward the Great Day of Music and the end of the program year. We all look toward the end of the school-year and the beginning of summer.

What do you have planned for the summer? Are you looking forward to a vacation? Are you dreaming about your garden? Do you love baseball season? Maybe you are planning on going to the lake for fishing or swimming...

This summer, I'd like to invite you to consider a new practice. The Eastside House Churches are intentional about seeking God.

We try to be attentive to God's presence. As some of you have heard, we ask ourselves how we have seen God: "What are our God Moments?" As you do whatever you might be doing this summer, be attentive to God's presence. Constantly ask yourself, "How am I seeing God?" "Do I see God in the sunrise?" "Do I see God in the face of my friends and family?" "Do I see God in my happy moments?" And perhaps harder, "Do I see God in the faces of those I don't like or in my enemies?" "Do I see God in my worst moments?" The truth? God is THERE all the time. God is WITH YOU all the time!

As you witness God's presence in your life, share your experiences with your friends and family. Make sure the church family hears about God's activity in your life, too. In other words, how will you use the opportunities you have to share the ways God has and continues to bless you?

Blessings,

Pastor Steve



Upcoming Special Sundays

Graduate Recognition will be Sunday, June 8th

Calling all grads! We'll be celebrating your accomplishments during our worship service on June 8th. Please let the office know if you have a graduate in your family this year so that we can include them in the recognition. They could be graduating from high school, college, trade school, etc. We will also have a reception following the service so that everybody can greet and congratulate the graduates. The office phone is 952-888-6070 or the email is www.paumc@paumc.org. Thank you!



Join us for our Great Day of Music, Sunday, May 18, 10am

As is our long-standing tradition at The PORT, we will be celebrating the last Sunday of our school year with our Great Day of Music. Join us for a variety of music from our groups and members as we experience God's word through music and singing.

Speaking of Sunday Music, we also have a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk and invite our members to share your musical talents with us during the summer worship services. Invite your musical family or friends to visit us, and maybe even join you!

Mission Outreach

May's Mission Outreach Focus: 2025 Love Offering

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2025 Annual Conference—which will take place June 11-13, 2025 at the St. Cloud Convention Center—is “Created for Love.”

Our Love Offering theme this year is “Love in Action.” Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as we put love into action. Donations to the 2024 Love Offering totaled \$142,963.40, a 78 percent increase from the 2023 total! How much will we raise this year?

This year's Love Offering will go to:

- Africa University for student scholarships (30%)
- Immigration Law and Justice Network (30%)
- Midwest Mission (20%)
- OC Ministries (20%)

Thank you, as always, for your generous support.

Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose,
Mission Outreach Co-Chairs



March Mission Outreach Update

The March Mission Outreach project was to participate in VEAP's annual Minnesota FoodShare Campaign. You filled two shopping carts that weighed 147 pounds! Way to go!

Thank you for your contributions! Nancy and Pam

Holy Week @ The PORT

We celebrated Holy Week at The PORT starting with the parade of waving palm branches on Palm Sunday, to the moving Maundy Thursday service of Communion that was enjoyed with members from Hillcrest UMC. Then on Easter Sunday we were happy to share the joy of the day with members from Eastside Ministries, which is the House Church that Pastor Steve leads. Our celebrations started with a gathering over breakfast and carried into our moving Easter Worship service.

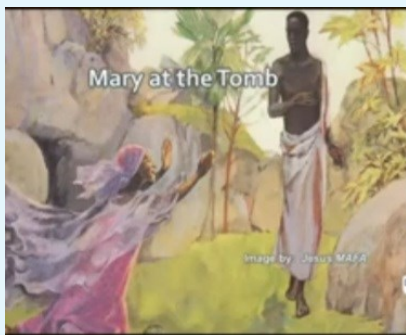
Thank you to the many people involved with the planning and carrying out of these special services, and to the cooks who made the delicious Easter breakfast. This was a very special and moving week. We hope you will enjoy these pictures for a glimpse into the celebrations.



Easter Sunday @ The PORT




Thank you to
Melinda Matton for
coordinating the
plant orders and
for arranging the
beautiful Easter Gar-
den, with Kathy
Soucy's help too!



Spiritual Growth

May Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Welcomers	Heather Anderson, Greg Jurek	LaVonne Robinson Sue Wells	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Heather Anderson Bill Baker
Ushers	Trent Olson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Don Anderson Scott Swenson	Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Jocelyn Medzagoh	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Greg Jurek
Reader	Kathy Bell	Neil Anderson	Melinda Matton	Greg Jurek
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Leo Castro	Tim Madsen
Media	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen
Livestream	Scott Swenson	Tim Hagerty	Clint Andrus	N/A
Closer	Tom Wellman	Don Anderson	Scott Swenson	Clint Andrus
Counters	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman Trent Olson	Pam Rose Trent Olson	Pam Rose Steve Soucy
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker			

Congregational Care



Birthday Blessings to our May Friends!

05 - Tom Wellman	19 - Nathan Wells
06 - Amy Runck	23 - Evelyn Runck
10 - Janene Haugen	24 - Scott Swenson
14 - Laura Avery	24 - Shiloh Wilson
14 - Chuck Bartels	28 - Sharon Beckler
16 - Mike Moreland	28 - Vicki Fischer
18 - Rylie Rasmussen	29 - Amelia Swenson





If you have a birthday during the month of May but your name isn't on our list, please let us know so we can update our records for next year.

TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	5 6:30 pm Church Council (Zoom)			1	2	3 PORT Spring Clean-up - 9am - 12pm 2pm Plant Sale pickup
		6 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop	7 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 Happy Mother's Day! UMC Love Offering Sunday 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	12	13 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop	14 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	15 June Newsletter Deadline	16	17 2PM Ginny Karki Celebration of Life at MN Arboretum
	19 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	20 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	26 	27 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop	28	29	30	31

Could you serve on Sunday mornings? Please ask any volunteer or contact the church office.



Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



GIVE+
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE



Join us for in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am.
Sunday School classes for children and youth are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Staff

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>